AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A BTL amplifying apparatus ~~having two power amplifiers in a BTL configuration for driving a speaker~~, comprising:

two output terminals;

two power amplifiers for driving a speaker;

an electric volume;

~~muting means for muting an input signal to be supplied to the power amplifiers during a predetermined length of time;~~

~~detection means for detecting~~a difference voltage detecting unit that detects a differential voltage ~~to provide a DC offset~~ between ~~outputs from~~ the two power amplifiers ~~while no input signal is supplied to the power amplifiers by the muting means~~; ~~and~~

~~decision means for deciding~~a control unit that decides whether or not said differential voltage is larger than a prescribed voltage; and

switches respectively connected between the two output terminals ~~of~~ and the two power amplifiers ~~and the speaker~~ for respectively connecting the two power amplifiers to the two output terminals,

~~whereby the switches are turned off when it is decided that the differential voltage is larger than the prescribed voltage, for preventing the speaker from being supplied with the output signals from the power amplifiers~~

wherein after the control unit controls the electric volume to mute signals outputted from the electric volume at a prescribed timing, the control unit reads the differential voltage detected by the difference voltage detecting unit, and

wherein when the control unit decides that the differential voltage is larger than a prescribed voltage, the control unit turns off the switches.

Claims 2-21 (canceled)

22. (new) The BTL amplifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prescribed timing includes time when the control unit receives a signal indicating that a power switch is turned on, or that a signal source is switched.

23. (new) The BTL amplifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a warning device for giving a warning when the control unit decides that the difference voltage is larger than the prescribed voltage.